

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re New Patent Application of)
Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.)
Japanese Priority Application No. 2001-040848) Attn: Applications
Japanese Priority Date: February 16, 2001) Branch
For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING)
A SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE) Date: February 14, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-106 and add new claims 107-211 as follows:

--107. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

adding a metal element to a first semiconductor film comprising amorphous silicon over a substrate;

crystallizing the first semiconductor film to form a first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a barrier layer on the first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a second semiconductor film on the barrier layer;

forming a third semiconductor film containing one conductive type impurity element on the second semiconductor film;

reducing a concentration of the metal element in the first crystalline semiconductor film by allowing the third semiconductor film to getter the metal element; and

removing the second semiconductor film and the third semiconductor film.

108. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the third semiconductor film is formed by forming a semiconductor film and by adding one conductive type impurity element to the semiconductor film.

109. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element is formed by one selected from the group consisting of a plasma CVD method and a low pressure thermal CVD method.

110. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element is formed by sputtering technique.

111. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 110, further comprising a step of adding at least one element selected from the group consisting of He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, O, O₂, H, and H₂ to the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element.

112. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the third semiconductor film has an amorphous structure or a crystalline structure.

113. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the metal element is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Co, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, Cu, and Au.

114. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

115. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light.

116. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

117. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film with a solution containing ozone.

118. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film by an ultraviolet irradiation.

119. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

120. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the reducing step is carried out by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light.

121. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

122. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the one conductive type impurity element is one selected from the group consisting of elements belonging to Group 15 or 13 in the periodic table.

123. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 120, wherein the light is emitted from one selected from the group consisting of a halogen lamp, a metal halide lamp, a xenon arc lamp, a carbon arc lamp, a high pressure sodium lamp, and a high pressure mercury lamp.

124. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the semiconductor device is an EL display device.

125. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 107, wherein the semiconductor device is at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a video camera, a mobile computer, a goggle-type display, a player using a recording medium, a digital camera, a projector, a mobile phone, and a portable book.

126. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

adding a metal element to a first semiconductor film comprising amorphous silicon over a substrate;

crystallizing the first semiconductor film to form a first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a barrier layer on the first crystalline semiconductor film;
forming a second semiconductor film on the barrier layer;
adding one conductive type impurity element to only an upper layer
of the second semiconductor film;
reducing a concentration of the metal element in the first crystalline
semiconductor film by allowing the upper layer of the second semiconductor film to
getter the metal element; and
removing the second semiconductor film.

127. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to
claim 126, further comprising a step of adding at least one element selected from the
group consisting of He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, O, O₂, H, and H₂ to the second
semiconductor film.

128. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to
claim 126, wherein the second semiconductor film has an amorphous structure or a
crystalline structure.

129. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to
claim 126, wherein the metal element is at least one element selected from the group
consisting of Fe, Ni, Co, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, Cu, and Au.

130. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to
claim 126, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

131. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to
claim 126, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by irradiating the first
semiconductor film with a light.

132. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

133. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film with a solution containing ozone.

134. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film by an ultraviolet irradiation.

135. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

136. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the reducing step is carried out by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light.

137. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

138. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the one conductive type impurity element is one selected from the group consisting of elements belonging to Group 15 or 13 in the periodic table.

139. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the light is emitted from one selected from the group consisting of a halogen lamp, a metal halide lamp, a xenon arc lamp, a carbon arc lamp, a high pressure sodium lamp, and a high pressure mercury lamp.

140. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the semiconductor device is an EL display device.

141. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 126, wherein the semiconductor device is at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a video camera, a mobile computer, a goggle-type display, a player using a recording medium, a digital camera, a projector, a mobile phone, and a portable book.

142. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a first semiconductor film comprising amorphous silicon over a substrate;

adding a crystallization promoting material on the first semiconductor film;

crystallizing the first semiconductor film to form a first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a barrier layer on the first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a second semiconductor film on the barrier layer;

forming a third semiconductor film containing one conductive type impurity element on the second semiconductor film;

reducing a concentration of the crystallization promoting material in the first crystalline semiconductor film by using the third semiconductor film; and

removing the second and the third semiconductor films after the reducing step.

143. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the third semiconductor film is formed by forming a semiconductor film and by adding one conductive type impurity element to the semiconductor film.

144. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element is formed by one selected from the group consisting of a plasma CVD method and a low pressure thermal CVD method.

145. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element is formed by sputtering technique.

146. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, further comprising a step of adding at least one element selected from the group consisting of He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, O, O₂, H, and H₂ to the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element.

147. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the third semiconductor film has an amorphous structure or a crystalline structure.

148. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the crystallization promoting material is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Co, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, Cu, and Au.

149. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

150. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light.

151. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

152. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film with a solution containing ozone.

153. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film by an ultraviolet irradiation.

154. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

155. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the reducing step is carried out by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light.

156. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by

irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

157. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the one conductive type impurity element is one selected from the group consisting of elements belonging to Group 15 or 13 in the periodic table.

158. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 155, wherein the light is emitted from one selected from the group consisting of a halogen lamp, a metal halide lamp, a xenon arc lamp, a carbon arc lamp, a high pressure sodium lamp, and a high pressure mercury lamp.

159. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the semiconductor device is an EL display device.

160. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 142, wherein the semiconductor device is at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a video camera, a mobile computer, a goggle-type display, a player using a recording medium, a digital camera, a projector, a mobile phone, and a portable book.

161. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a first semiconductor film comprising amorphous silicon over a substrate;

adding a crystallization promoting material on the first semiconductor film;

crystallizing the first semiconductor film to form a first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a barrier layer on the first crystalline semiconductor film;
forming a second semiconductor film on the barrier layer;
forming a third semiconductor film containing one conductive type impurity element on the second semiconductor film;
reducing a concentration of the crystallization promoting material in the first crystalline semiconductor film by gettering the crystallization promoting material into the third semiconductor film; and
removing the second and the third semiconductor films after the reducing step.

162. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the third semiconductor film is formed by forming a semiconductor film and by adding one conductive type impurity element to the semiconductor film.

163. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element is formed by one selected from the group consisting of a plasma CVD method and a low pressure thermal CVD method.

164. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element is formed by sputtering technique.

165. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, further comprising a step of adding at least one element selected from the group consisting of He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, O, O₂, H, and H₂ to the third semiconductor film containing the one conductive type impurity element.

166. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the third semiconductor film has an amorphous structure or a crystalline structure.

167. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the crystallization promoting material is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Co, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, Cu, and Au.

168. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

169. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light.

170. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

171. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film with a solution containing ozone.

172. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film by an ultraviolet irradiation.

173. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

174. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the reducing step is carried out by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light.

175. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

176. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 161, wherein the one conductive type impurity element is one selected from the group consisting of elements belonging to Group 15 or 13 in the periodic table.

177. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 174, wherein the light is emitted from one selected from the group consisting of a halogen lamp, a metal halide lamp, a xenon arc lamp, a carbon arc lamp, a high pressure sodium lamp, and a high pressure mercury lamp.

178. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 174, wherein the semiconductor device is an EL display device.

179. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 174, wherein the semiconductor device is at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a video camera, a mobile computer, a goggle-type display, a player using a recording medium, a digital camera, a projector, a mobile phone, and a portable book.

180. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a first semiconductor film comprising amorphous silicon over a substrate;

adding a crystallization promoting material on the first semiconductor film;

crystallizing the first semiconductor film to form a first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a barrier layer on the first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a second semiconductor film on the barrier layer;

adding one conductive type impurity element to only an upper layer of the second semiconductor film;

reducing a concentration of the crystallization promoting material in the first crystalline semiconductor film by using the second semiconductor film; and

removing the second semiconductor film after the reducing step.

181. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, further comprising a step of adding at least one element selected from the group consisting of He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, O, O₂, H, and H₂ to the second semiconductor film.

182. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the second semiconductor film has an amorphous structure or a crystalline structure.

183. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the crystallization promoting material is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Co, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, Cu, and Au.

184. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

185. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light.

186. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

187. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film with a solution containing ozone.

188. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film by an ultraviolet irradiation.

189. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

190. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the reducing step is carried out by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light.

191. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

192. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the one conductive type impurity element is one selected from the group consisting of elements belonging to Group 15 or 13 in the periodic table.

193. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 190, wherein the light is emitted from one selected from the group consisting of a halogen lamp, a metal halide lamp, a xenon arc lamp, a carbon arc lamp, a high pressure sodium lamp, and a high pressure mercury lamp.

194. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the semiconductor device is an EL display device.

195. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 180, wherein the semiconductor device is at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a video camera, a mobile computer, a goggle-type display, a player using a recording medium, a digital camera, a projector, a mobile phone, and a portable book.

196. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device comprising the steps of:

forming a first semiconductor film comprising amorphous silicon over a substrate;

adding a crystallization promoting material on the first semiconductor film;

crystallizing the first semiconductor film to form a first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a barrier layer on the first crystalline semiconductor film;

forming a second semiconductor film on the barrier layer;

adding one conductive type impurity element to only an upper layer of the second semiconductor film;

reducing a concentration of the crystallization promoting material in the first crystalline semiconductor film by gettering the crystallization promoting material into the second semiconductor film; and

removing the second semiconductor film after the reducing step.

197. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, further comprising a step of adding at least one element selected from the group consisting of He, Ne, Ar, Kr, Xe, O, O₂, H, and H₂ to the second semiconductor film.

198. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the second semiconductor film has an amorphous structure or a crystalline structure.

199. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the crystallization promoting material is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Ni, Co, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, Cu, and Au.

200. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

201. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light.

202. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the crystallizing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

203. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film with a solution containing ozone.

204. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the barrier layer is formed by oxidizing the surface of the first crystalline semiconductor film by an ultraviolet irradiation.

205. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment.

206. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the reducing step is carried out by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light.

207. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the reducing step is carried out by a heat treatment and by irradiating the first crystalline semiconductor film with a light after the heat treatment.

208. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the one conductive type impurity element is one selected from the group consisting of elements belonging to Group 15 or 13 in the periodic table.

209. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 206, wherein the light is emitted from one selected from the group consisting of a halogen lamp, a metal halide lamp, a xenon arc lamp, a carbon arc lamp, a high pressure sodium lamp, and a high pressure mercury lamp.

210. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the semiconductor device is an EL display device.

211. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to claim 196, wherein the semiconductor device is at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a video camera, a mobile computer, a goggle-type display, a player using a recording medium, a digital camera, a projector, a mobile phone, and a portable book.


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REMARKS

Original claims 1-106 have been canceled and new claims 107-211, which are identical to claims 1-4 and 6-106 of the original claims, have been added to correct the numbering of the claims. Specifically, the original claims did not include a claim 5, and thus the claims were not consecutively numbered.

Examination on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric J. Robinson
Registration No. 38,285

NIXON PEABODY LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 790-9110

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